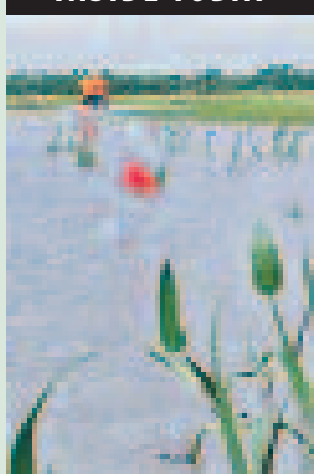




Sugar Land Today

February-March 2005

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Earthen Fill Worth its Weight in Gold

Through prudent planning, the City of Sugar Land has negotiated solutions that will benefit both the Texas Department of Transportation's U.S. Highway 59 Expansion-Phase II and the City's proposed Brazos River Park, a 420-acre park along the Brazos River east of U.S. Highway 59.

The City and the contractor for the highway expansion have signed a contract that will potentially save the City millions of dollars in excavation costs for the future park while filling the contractor's need for earthen fill. The City is also finalizing a related arrangement with TxDOT that will result in a deceleration lane and driveway access off of the U.S. Highway 59 frontage road into the proposed park at no cost to the City.

In 2004, the City saw that two significant projects had complementary needs. First, the City was moving



Earthen fill from park excavations will form embankments for U.S. Highway 59 bridges.

forward with a preliminary design of the first phase of the proposed Brazos River Park. The first phase includes the excavation of several significant-sized ponds, which will be the future site of leisure activities such as fishing, canoeing and possibly sailing of small sailboats. Excavation of the ponds was expected to cost millions of dollars.

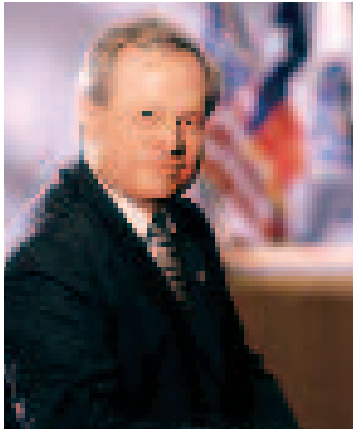
At the same time, TxDOT hired a contractor, Williams

Brothers Construction Company, for the expansion of U.S. Highway 59 between State Highway 6 and the Grand Parkway (State Highway 99). Williams Brothers potentially will need up to approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of earth material to construct the massive approaches for the proposed U.S. Highway 59 bridges over the Brazos River.

continue Two Projects page 3



DEAR RESIDENTS



Allen Bogard
City Manager

Even though the year is young, 2005 has literally started out with a bang! Those of you who attended Sugar Land's new City Hall dedication know what I am talking about. Hundreds gathered for the celebration and public open house on Jan. 7. The event was capped with a fireworks show provided by Town Square's developer, Planned Community Developers, to mark the occasion. (see page 4)

As I stated that evening, public trust in Sugar Land government is the key ingredient that allows projects like Town Square and City Hall to become a reality. Public trust in government is truly a rare commodity. But in Sugar Land, this trust has been earned by the dedication to public ethics of past officials and employees who have built this great City.

The trust that our citizens have in their City government must be cherished and protected. Recognizing this, the City Council established a strategic project in 2003 that would create a written Code of Ethics to guide current and future City leaders. After considering several alternatives, this objective took shape as the City Council organized the Citizens Ethical Standards Task Force (pictured below) in August 2004. The task force is charged with creating recommendations for written ethical standards for elected officials and other non-employee representatives of City government. City employees are excluded from the project because they are already covered by existing ethical standards.

Phase I of the project was completed Nov. 16, 2004 after the task force presented key questions and options to City Council. Direction to the task force included:

- prepare a code to apply to the City Council and all members of Sugar Land boards, commissions and future task force groups;
- develop specific rules covering actions, behaviors and circumstances;
- develop a process for handling accusations or infractions of the code coupled with additional research on enforcement options; and
- research and bring back a more specific recommendation on what activities should be included.

Phase II of the Task Force's efforts will be guided by the City Council's original charge and specific policy direction provided in late 2004. The Task Force will make interim reports to Council in writing and/or in Council workshop settings at logical intervals so that policy direction is clearly established at each stage of the work plan. The task force is proceeding with their research and will present a draft Code of Ethics to Council no earlier than April 2005.

Establishment of the task force and the ethics policy is not the result of controversy involving City leaders. In a desire to further your trust in us, we believe the written standards developed by citizens will formalize the ethical procedure City leaders currently follow. Your trust is something we never want to lose.

Sincerely,
Allen Bogard



Sugar Land's Citizens Ethical Standards Task Force: (front l-r) Clyde Jacks, Martin Nicholas (chairman); (back l-r) Jeff Tallas, Cindy Newlin, Debra Ross, Karyn Dean, John Niemand

SUGAR LAND GOALS 2004-2009

Well-planned community
Safest city in the area
Strong local economy
Responsible city government
Mobility for people
Livable neighborhoods

CITY COUNCIL

David G. Wallace
Mayor

Thomas Abraham
At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong
At-Large Position Two

Dennis C. Parmer
Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley
Single Member District Two
Mayor Pro Tem

Russell C. Jones
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

David Ellison
Assistant City Manager

Paul A. Hofmann
Assistant City Manager

Sugar Land Today is published bimonthly by the City of Sugar Land. Address your comments to editor@sugarlandtx.gov.

Contributors

Joe Chesser, Joseph Esch, Matt Fielder, Anne Gaines, Karen Glynn, Claire Manthei, Michael McLemore, Damian Nguyen, Dorothy Painter, Andy Peal, Kelly Penewitt, Eric Robins, Phillip Savko, Adam Smith, Patrick Walsh

MOBILITY

Two Projects *from page 1*

The City recognized that the City's excavation needs and the contractor's earthen fill needs were mutually beneficial and a rare opportunity was at hand. As a result, the City approached the contractor on how the contractor could utilize the City's proposed pond sites as supply pits for the contractor's U.S. Highway 59 soil needs.

Negotiations ensued and the resulting contract between the City and Williams Brothers, approved by City Council on Dec. 21, 2004, will ensure that the contractor excavates portions of the City's ponds at no cost to the City. In fact, the contractor will pay the City for design, surveying and other expenses related to this arrangement. This arrangement could potentially save the City up to \$5 million in pond excavation costs, depending on the final size of the contractor's excavations.

The City's pond excavations have also turned out to be mutually beneficial to TxDOT's U.S. Highway 59 drainage needs. TxDOT is required to excavate a

Proposed Brazos River Park Venues

- 1 — Amphitheater
- 2 — Parking Lots
- 3 — Canoe Launching
- 4 — Picnic Areas
- 5 — Disk Golf Area
- 6 — Nature Center
- 7 — Dog Park
- 8 — Soft Ball Fields
- 9 — Youth Soccer Fields
- 10 — Pavilion
- 11 — Playgrounds
- 12 — Cricket Field
- 13 — Multi-Sports Fields
- 14 — Mountain Bike Trails
- 15 — Concessions

pond to mitigate lost flood-plain storage resulting from the highway construction. As a result, the City and TxDOT have agreed in concept on an arrangement wherein TxDOT will utilize the Brazos Park ponds to fulfill their floodplain mitigation requirements.

In return, TxDOT will provide a deceleration lane and driveway off of the northbound U.S. Highway 59 frontage road into the Brazos River Park. This driveway will result in an additional access point for the City's Park from U.S. Highway 59 at no cost to the City. The estimated cost of this turn lane and driveway is \$75,000.



Three Texas Department of Transportation projects on the major highways through Sugar Land are scheduled to be under construction during 2005:

U.S. Highway 59 Expansion: This ongoing construction project will continue improvements that were recently completed on the section of U.S. Highway 59 between U.S. Highway 90A and State Highway 6. The new construction will continue these improvements on U.S. Highway 59 out to State Highway 99 (Grand Parkway).

State Highway 6/U.S. 90A Expansion: TxDOT will expand State Highway 6 from First Colony Boulevard/Brooks Street to north of U.S. Highway 90A.

U.S. 90A Expansion: TxDOT will expand U.S. Highway 90A from four to eight lanes from U.S. Highway 59 to State Highway 6. Please watch for heavy equipment on the roads and be patient with delays. For the latest information on lane closures and detours, visit the City's Web site at www.sugarlandtx.gov. Click on Highway Construction Updates at the lower left.



Dedicated to the Ones We Serve



Fireworks sizzled over City Hall as part of the January 7 community dedication. City employees led residents on tours of the building's City Council Chamber, department suites and Payments area.



Drum lines from Kempner and Clements High Schools, along with a portion of the University of Houston marching band set a spirited tone for the crowd in Town Square Plaza. Other participating community groups were Fort Bend Boys Choir, Sons of the American Revolution, Dulles High School

Color Guard and Sugar Land Police Department Honor Guard.

Mayor David Wallace and City Manager Allen Bogard led the ceremony. Four former Sugar Land mayors recalled events that have shaped the City since its incorporation in December 1959: Mayor William Little (1960-66, also served on original council), Mayor Walter McMeans (1981-86), Mayor Lee Duggan (1986-96) and Mayor Dean Hrbacek (1996-2002).

While construction of your City Hall is completed, our work to keep Sugar Land as a vibrant place to live is never done!



E-News Keeps You in the E-Know

Want to read City news, events and important alerts at the click of your mouse? E-News is Sugar Land's electronic news report that is e-mailed to subscribers approximately twice a month. The service was launched in 2004 to offer subscribers a new way to connect with their City government.

Now E-News is looking better than ever. For subscribers who are able to view HTML e-mail, E-News has an enhanced layout with easy-to-read text and useful graphic elements. Subscribers who can only view text e-mails will find all the information provided without the graphics.

Along with summaries of recent news releases, other features of E-News include U.S. Highway 59 updates and quick links to E-Gov tools.

Stay connected to your City government by visiting www.sugarlandtx.gov. Click on Join E-News on the lower right. You can subscribe in just a few steps.

E-News is free of advertising, subscription information is not made available to third parties and recipients may unsubscribe at any time.



Sugar Land Town Square a Winner



Pictured (l-r) are Joseph Esch, City Economic Development director; Don Janssen, Jr., Planned Community Developers senior vice president; Allen Bogard, City manager; and Sabine Somers-Kuenzel, City planner.

The evolution of a downtown for the City of Sugar Land located in Sugar Land Town Square recently was recognized by the American Planning Association's Houston chapter. The "Development in Context" award acknowledges the public-private partnership of the City of Sugar Land and Planned Community Developers.

Jointly, they have created a vibrant business district that is "appropriate and in harmony with the surrounding area." The 32-acre mixed-use development includes a 1.2-acre plaza that serves as a community gathering place surrounded by the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, City Hall, retail, offices, residential condominiums and restaurants.

If you haven't visited Town Square yet, stop by soon. You'll be impressed!



SAFETY

Sugar Land Police Among the Best

The Sugar Land Police Department recently earned reaccreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, which gave the department high marks in maintaining established standards. The reaccreditation reinforces the department's commitment to excellence in leadership, resource management and police service delivery. It is one of only 23 accredited law enforcement agencies in Texas.

"Reaccreditation validates the professionalism and dedication of our police officers and staff and gives our citizens the continued confidence in the department," said Police



Training Division Officer Yolanda Davis, Senior Secretary Toni Wilson, and Captain Eric Robins were part of the team that helped the Police Department earn high marks in its reaccreditation efforts.

Police Department Stats Has 158 employees (114 sworn, 44 civilian)

- 7 Motorcycle Traffic officers
- 20-member Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT)
- 10-member Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT)
- 15-member Honor Guard unit
- Bicycle Patrol
- Detention Center
- Mobile Command Center

Offers several programs, including:

- AARP's Driver Safety
- Are You O.K.?
- Bicycle Identification
- Citizens Police Academy
- Child ID Cards
- Child Safety Seat
- Home Inspections
- House Watch
- National Night Out
- Operation H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft)
- RAD "Rape Aggression Defense" Program

Chief Lisa Womack. "It gives us a blueprint for excellence on which we can continue to build."

The CALEA assessment team commended Chief Womack's forward thinking and the department's excellent leadership. The report also states, "The men and women of the agency are polite, enthusiastic and professional. These men and women work well together and are working hard to build a public safety partnership with the citizens of Sugar Land."

In order to be reaccredited, the department must meet all the applicable CALEA standards and those represent the best

practices of all aspects of law enforcement.

"It's an exhaustive process but one well worth it to ensure our delivery of police services is one of the best in the country," said Captain Eric Robins, who was the department's accreditation manager. "Not only do Sugar Land residents expect us to provide excellence police service, they deserve it. When they know that our officers follow the rules, it increases their respect and confidence in the Sugar Land Police Department."

With the CALEA accreditation, Sugar Land joins the ranks of some of the most elite police agencies in the world. Throughout the

United States, Canada and U.S. Virgin Islands there are only 425 CALEA accredited agencies. Of the 50,000 to 60,000 police agencies in the world, only the top one percent earn CALEA accreditation.

The Sugar Land Police Department undergoes reaccreditation every three years for as long as it wishes to remain accredited. CALEA's assessment team of law enforcement professionals work to verify that the department is in compliance with 446 applicable standards. The department received its first CALEA accreditation in 2001.

Fire Department Offers Educational Opportunities

The Public Education Division of the Sugar Land Fire Department has many free ways to help residents of all ages be aware and be prepared for a fire emergency. To schedule any of the following services, call 281-275-2859 or e-mail fire@sugarlandtx.gov.

Smoke Alarm Program

The Sugar Land Fire Department provides free smoke alarms to residents without working alarms in their homes. Each year the Fire Department, assisted by community volunteers, conducts door-to-door smoke alarm drives in targeted neighborhoods 10 years old or older. These visits are a great opportunity to talk with homeowners about many fire and life safety subjects, such as the need for a fire escape plan, how to use fire extinguishers, and the care and maintenance of smoke alarms. Our firefighters also install free smoke alarms at the conclusion of non-life threatening emergencies.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends smoke alarms be placed on each level of the house and outside sleeping areas. Smoke alarms 10 years or older should be replaced as the sensors within the alarm deteriorate throughout time.



Citizen Fire Academy

Are you curious what it is like to be a firefighter, one of the most adrenaline-charged jobs there is? And what do firefighters do when not responding to emergencies? Find out by joining us for our new Citizen Fire Academy to take place in the upcoming months. The 40-hour class will include an exciting ride in a fire truck, hands-on firefighter training scenarios and an examination of the Operations Division.

Stay tuned as we finalize the details of this exciting and educational citizen opportunity!

Juvenile Fire Setting is Preventable

In the past year, the Fire Department's Public Education Office has referred two Sugar Land juveniles to a fire safety program called Fire Stoppers, operated by the Houston Fire Department and recommended by the State Fire Marshall.

The crime of arson has the highest rate of juvenile involvement of all other crimes. Estimates are that young people set 20-40 percent of all fires and that fires set by them are the leading cause of death for children in the home, including the very ones setting the fires. Juvenile arson and youth set fires result in more than 300 deaths with 2,000 injuries each year. This causes \$300 million in property damage with more than 40,000 incidents annually.

Once Sugar Land Fire Department is made aware of a fire incident involving a child, fire prevention specialists seek to interview the parents to access the family situation. Parents are asked to have the child visit a counselor. An unbiased opinion by a mental health professional is essential to a positive outcome. If the child has been evaluated and has been determined to have an unhealthy interest in fire play, the fire specialist can then make a referral to a juvenile fire setting program such as Fire Stoppers. As our population grows, the need to implement our own youth juvenile arson prevention program will be reviewed.

Parents with concerns about their child's fire behavior can call the Fire Department's Public Education Office at 281-275-2859. For information

about the Fire Stoppers program, call the Houston Fire Department at 713-495-7927.

Home Inspections

The average home has more than 30 potential fire hazards. Firefighters will come to your home to evaluate your safety. After making a general inspection inside and out, they will leave a copy of the completed inspection form. Take advantage of the firefighters being in your home to ask questions about fire escape planning, fire extinguishers, household chemical storage and much more. Firefighters can install free smoke alarms or replace smoke alarm batteries.

Senior Citizens Fire Safety & Fall Prevention Program

Retirement facilities and organizations serving older adults are encouraged to schedule these programs that are geared for our citizens who are at higher risk of injury from fires or falls. The program topics include fire evacuation, fall prevention, stroke, surviving fire in your home, fire extinguishers and holiday safety tips.

If you don't currently belong to a seniors group, why not join the group that meets monthly at Parks and Recreation Department? Call them at 281-275-2885 to learn more.



FINANCE

Electronic Ticket Writers Hit the Streets

Thanks to funding from the Sugar Land Municipal Court, Sugar Land police traffic officers now are equipped with hand-held electronic ticket writers. The ticket writers record information digitally and then electronically transmit it to the court for processing. Due to its wireless capabilities, the information can be in the court's computer system in a matter of minutes.

"Sugar Land is committed to saving taxpayers' dollars by replacing time-intensive manual procedures with court-related technology," said Municipal Court Administrator Eugenia Cano. "We are always looking for ways to improve our service to our citizens. The electronic ticket writers reduce the possibility for error and increase efficiency by both police officers and municipal court personnel."

During a traffic stop, an officer is able to swipe a driver's license through a hand-held unit instead of handwriting the information. The motorist signs the hand-held unit with a digital pen device, and the

ticket is created on-site from a small portable printer.

During the first quarter of 2005, the electronic ticket writers will interface directly with local, state and regional databases to wirelessly check vehicle

identification numbers, license plate and driver's license numbers to identify vehicle registration, driver's license violations and any outstanding arrest warrants.



New electronic ticket writers used by Officer Mark Floyd and others allow for fewer errors and soon will identify violations and outstanding warrants.

General Fund Keeps City Well Planned and Livable

This is the third in a continuing series of Financial Education articles that inform residents about City services, how they are funded and how your dollars are being spent. In the last issue, we introduced you to the General Fund, which has a 2004-2005 operating budget of \$38 million. It is the chief operating fund for eight traditional City services like Police and Fire, which

were featured in the last issue of Sugar Land Today.

This issue we focus on two more: the Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments. These departments use your taxpayer dollars to help ensure Sugar Land remains a well-planned community with livable neighborhoods.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation employs

19 full-time personnel plus seasonal help for park maintenance and summer programs. It puts its \$2.2 million budget to work providing all citizens enjoyable quality leisure opportunities and services with emphasis on high quality facilities and programs, the preservation of open space, and a comprehensive park and recreation system.

The department oversees 357 developed acres of parkland and seven community buildings and facilities. A wide array of sport, recreation and leisure activities and special events are available for citizens of all ages. Families participate in swimming, summer day camp, open gym, and leisure classes such as yoga, Jazzercise, karate and

continue General Fund page 9

General Fund *from page 8*

fencing. Seniors enjoy dances, trips and activities at the City's senior center.

The department manages family-oriented celebrations through City-organized events and community partnerships. Such events include EGGStravaganza in the Park; Red, White and Bluefest; Concert in the Park series; Halloween Fun Night; Mommy/Son and

Daddy/Daughter Valentine dances; and events in Town Square.

Public Works

With a \$6.6 million budget and 41 employees, Public Works operates and maintains streets, sidewalks, streetlights, rights-of-way and traffic operations. It provides for drainage and mosquito control, custodial and building maintenance, and fleet maintenance and

replacement. The department is also responsible for plans and specifications, contract management and inspection of all public improvements made by the City. Public Works' water and wastewater functions are financed by the Utility Fund and will be featured in a future issue.

The department maintains 29 bridges, 811 lane miles of street, 367 linear miles of sidewalk, 431 acres

of right-of-way, 6123 street lights, 67 signals and 6451 signs, 231 miles of storm sewer/open ditch and 5800 storm sewer inlets. Personnel also maintain the City's 370 truck, cars and other equipment, and 46 City facilities totaling 578,000 square feet.

From beautification programs to maintaining streets and traffic lights, Public Works considers residents' quality of life a high priority.

What About Old City Hall?

Sugar Land's new City Hall at Town Square opened in November 2004. The previous City Hall at 10405 Corporate Drive now stands empty.

After reviewing how the building might fit in with the City's facility needs, Sugar Land has concluded that there is no viable use for the building and will be selling it and the adjoining land.

The Corporate Drive facility was examined for future use by other City departments. It is not suit-

able for a Recreational Center due to building configuration, inability to expand the facility and location. Departments such as Public Works and Municipal Court have developed other solutions to their growth needs and other short-term transitions will be addressed without using the facility.

Municipalities have legal requirements when selling real property that homeowners do not. The City will use the competitive bidding



process to sell the property and will contract a commercial real estate firm to assist in the sale. The bidding

process is estimated to begin in April. The entire process is estimated to take approximately six to seven months.

User Fee Revisions Help Support City Services

Sugar Land's user fee philosophy of 2003 states, "The City shall establish user fees that recover the cost for services that benefit specific users. Where services provide a general public benefit, the City shall subsidize those services through property and sales tax and other revenue sources."

User fees for Park and Recreation and Development Services are the focus of

implementing the policy's first phase. City Council approved revisions to the fees effective Jan. 1, 2005: Health, Planning and Zoning (e.g., variance and conditional use fees), Community Center rentals, Day Camp sessions, swimming pool activities, athletic field rentals and other miscellaneous park fees.

Only users of these services will be assessed the

increased fees. Most of the fees were established in January 1990 with the exception of some inspection fees. Health fees were last changed in 2001.

Newly established user fees take into account competitive pricing, impact on users and market effect on demand for services, which were considered in a year-long review. The new fees help the City 1) decrease its

reliance on sales tax to fund its daily operations and 2) maintain a balanced and diversified revenue system that will assure reliable, equitable, diversified and sufficient revenue to support desired City services.

Visit the Hot Topics section of the City's Web site at www.sugarlandtx.gov to review the new fees.



FINANCE

Water and Wastewater Rate Increase

As of March 1, 2005, City water and wastewater bills will reflect a planned rate increase of 3 percent that becomes effective with usage as of Feb. 1, 2005.

Long-range financial planning for the City's Utility Fund and the utility system reflect the need for the revenue increase, which is needed to continue funding utility operations, debt service, infrastructure rehabilitation, and meet bond covenant and reserve requirements. The 3 percent rate is the result of applying the revenue increase evenly among all users.

Effect of 3 Percent Rate Increase on Monthly Bill

Volume In 1000 Gallons	Existing Bill	New Bill	Amount Increase	Percent Increase
3	21.03	21.63	0.60	3
6	32.58	33.51	0.93	3
10	47.95	49.35	1.37	3
12	56.04	57.65	1.61	3
20	88.28	90.85	2.57	3

For a residential household with a 3/4-inch meter, the monthly impacts are shown in the table above.

Even with the rate increase, Sugar Land continues to have one of the lowest water and waste-

water bills of cities with similar populations, as reported in a 2004 survey done by Texas Municipal League of Cities of 26 cities ranging with populations from 54,514 to 115,107. Sugar Land's bill for

10,000 gallons is \$49 compared to the average of \$56 among the 26 cities. Only five other respondent cities have lower water bills: McAllen with the lowest bill of approximately \$35, Tyler, Midland, Allen and Richardson. Bryan reported the highest bill of \$71.

How can you control your water and wastewater costs? Visiting the Hot Topics section of the City's Web site at www.sugarlandtx.gov for water saving tips and more information on water and wastewater rates. Contact 281-275-2750 for more information.



SERVICE

Recycle Your Used Cooking Oil

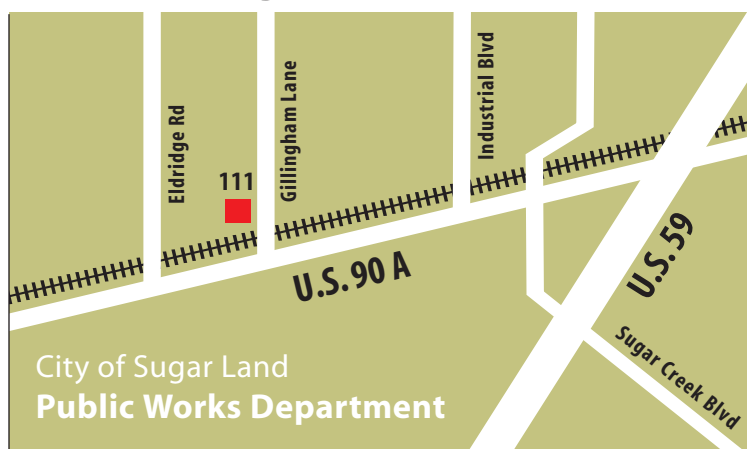
What can you do with the several gallons of cooking oil you use whenever you use your deep fryer? Most of your choices are bad ones: pouring the used oil down your house drains could lead to problems in the sanitary sewer system, pouring it on the ground may kill your grass and pouring it into the storm drain is illegal.

But have no worries—you have a good choice available. Recycle it! Sugar Land accepts liquid cooking

oils at the Public Works Department, 111 Gillingham Lane. City residents may dispose of up to 10 gallons of liquid cooking oil per day at no charge, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The cooking oil recycling center is for residential customers only and includes only liquid cooking-grade fats, oils and grease—NOT petroleum products.

Note: information not valid for non-City subdivisions that may receive this newsletter.



For Cooking Oil Recycling Info

Phone: 281-275-2450

E-mail: solidwaste@sugarlandtx.gov

Don't Mess With Texas!

Help give our community a good spring cleaning by helping pick up litter from roadsides, waterways and parks as part of the statewide Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off on Saturday, April 2. Join City and Keep Sugar Land Beautiful volunteers for breakfast and a rally at 8 a.m. at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, before dispersing to clean up sites throughout the city.

All ages are welcome. Grab your friends, family, classmates, coworkers — everyone you know — for this event. Dress comfortably. We'll supply t-shirts, trash bags and gloves. If you

have access to a boat and would like to help clean up Oyster Creek and its waterways, please join us.

The 12th annual Trash-Off is Sugar Land's contribution to the Great American Cleanup — a nationwide effort sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. In 2004, our Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off involved 394 volunteers from ages 4-94 who collected over 2 tons of trash!

Please register in advance at the Keep Sugar Land Beautiful office at 123 Brooks Street or online. Wildflower season is around the corner. Help keep the view clear of trash!



Nearly 400 volunteers of all ages collected over 2 tons of trash in the 2004 Trash-Off.

For Texas Trash-Off Volunteer Info

Phone: 281-313-5752

Keep Sugar Land Beautiful Web site:

www.kslb.org/events

E-mail: info@kslb.org

Keep Your Yard Looking Beautiful

Homeowners interested in improving their landscapes can learn two unique ways at composting classes

offered by Keep Sugar Land Beautiful. Advanced registration is required for both classes, which are open to



Lan Shen and Tricia Bradbury of KSLB work a compost pile at the YardWise demonstration site located in Lost Creek Park.

area residents interested in learning more about responsible yard care.

The "Green Thumb-Soil and Composting" class will provide information on YardWise concepts for maintaining a healthy soil and a beautiful landscape with limited environmental impact. Attendees will learn to create and manage compost areas in their yards. The class will be offered at Lost Creek Park on

Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to noon and again on Sunday, April 17 from 1-3 p.m. Class is free of charge.

Vermicomposting is a method of using worms to produce nutrient-rich soil additives in a very small space and uses the same concepts of turning organic waste into fertilizer as the soil and composting class does. Class participants will construct a worm bin and begin composting with worms!

This class will be held at Eldridge Park on Thursday, April 21 from 7-9 p.m. The \$10 fee will cover the cost of materials.

For Composting Class Registration Info

Phone:

281-313-5752

Keep Sugar Land Beautiful

Web site:

www.kslb.org

E-mail:

info@kslb.org

Wetlands Benefit from Airport Projects

The year is just beginning, but Sugar Land Regional Airport staff and contractors are already looking forward to October and completion of Phase I of the \$20 million General Aviation Complex. Phase I projects total \$8 million for bridge taxiways, drainage and infrastructure.

The bridge taxiways, which are the first for a general aviation airport in Texas, are part of two unique approaches to wetlands mitigation brought about by the Phase I improvements. The other is the restoration of 21 acres of former wetlands in the Brazos Bend State Park,

funded by the City of Sugar Land and Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division.

“It will be a very busy year as we make onsite improvements that will ultimately improve services for our tenants and customers. The Airport will also have a functional and updated look that’s consistent with the quality image of Sugar Land,” said Phillip Savko, aviation director. “And we are proud to be part of wetlands restoration that will benefit some of nearly 300 species of animals that frequent Brazos Bend State Park.”

The bridge taxiways

were devised to connect two parcels of land separated by a lake and will allow arriving planes to reach the General Aviation Complex. Using bridge taxiways reduces the impact to the wetlands area to less than three acres.

Federal law usually requires airports to mitigate wetland destruction by restoration up to a nine-to-one ratio, which Savko estimates could cost upwards of \$40,000 an acre, or almost \$1,080,000. A creative plan worked out by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department bring

the restoration ratio to seven-to-one and considerably lowers the cost by using a site next to the entrance of Brazos Bend State Park where TPWD had been planning to restore wetlands.

“The City and TxDOT Aviation are paying about \$140,000 for the restoration on the site, which will remain State property. TxDOT Aviation is providing about 90 percent of the funding through the money they’ve provided us for the general aviation complex project. Sugar Land is providing the other 10 percent,” Savko said. “This is a win-win for everyone concerned, especially for the community because federal dollars stayed here in our county.”

Restoration of 21 acres of wetlands at the entrance of Brazos Bend State Park is nearly complete. The ground has been prepared for native marsh plants to be planted in spring. By May, the blue iris, spider lilies and other plants will be well established and part of a new habitat meant to attract the many types of wetland dwellers, including the mottled duck—a species of the Florida and the Gulf Coasts that has been negatively impacted by the loss of wetlands.

The dry ground will be planted with prairie grasses that once covered the Texas coast.



Box beams are being positioned for the northernmost bridge taxiway spanning the wetlands at Sugar Land Regional Airport.

Parking Options in Town Square

Sugar Land Town Square has quickly become the destination of choice for outdoor and indoor dining, shopping and entertainment, and Town Square has spared no efforts in providing a variety of easily accessible parking options. With the recent addition of 260 parking spaces, Town Square parking now features more than 1400 parking spaces that include angled surface parking and two parking garages. An additional parking garage will begin construction early this year.

Located at the main entrance to Town Square, City Walk Garage has 500 parking spaces and caters to tenants such as Sugar Land Marriott Hotel, Baker Street Pub & Grille, Café Express and those in Office Building J. On Lone Star Drive, the Lone Star Garage provides over

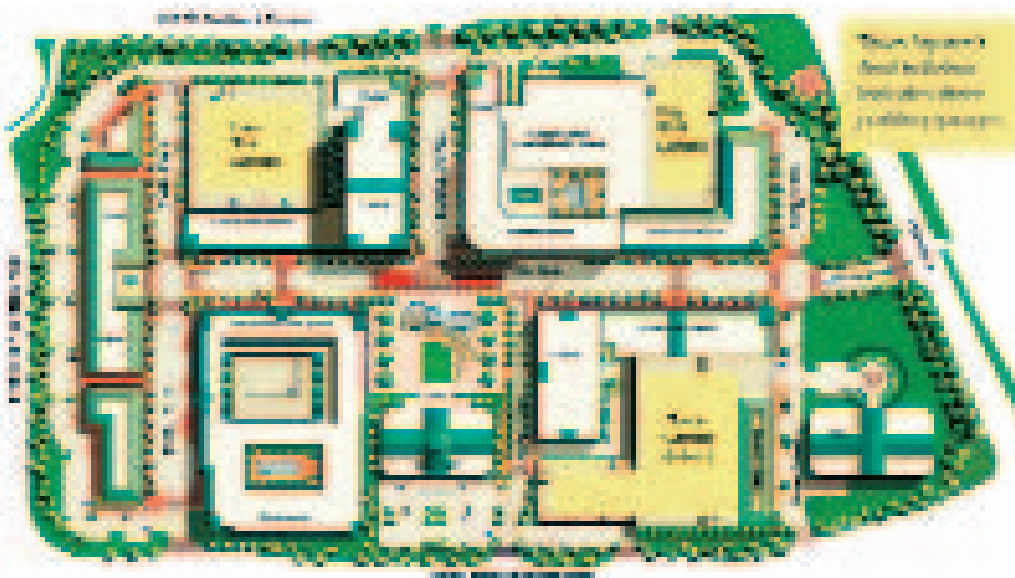
500 parking spaces and caters to tenants such as Houstonian Lite, Bombay, Ann Taylor Loft and those in Office Building N2, including Heritage Texas Properties.

In both garages, the first two parking levels are reserved for patrons visiting retail and restaurants in

Town Square. The third and fourth floors are designated for office tenants and employees. In addition, the new City Hall offers visitors a 50-plus parking lot at its 2700 Town Center Boulevard North location. Parking is reserved for City Hall use Monday through Friday

from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. and is available for Town Square parking during off hours.

The upcoming Texas Garage will be located at the corner of Texas Drive and Town Center Boulevard. Upon completion late in 2005, Texas Garage's 1400 parking spaces will more than double the number of parking spaces already in Town Square.



Economic Tools Drive Quality of Life

Sugar Land's most significant tools for attracting new businesses are its two economic development corporations. For over a decade, they have been responsible for many of the projects that keep Sugar Land's economy vibrant and growing.

In 1979 the Texas Legislature authorized municipalities to create non-profit corporations for the purpose of expanding industry and manufacturing activities within the city. The law was amended in

1987 allowing municipalities to hold local elections for an additional sales tax to fund the corporations' activities. This became known as a 4A corporation, a reference to its location in the Texas Tax Code.

Sugar Land voters approved the creation of the Sugar Land Development Corporation, or 4A Corporation, in 1993. Its primary focus was mobility but has since expanded to include other projects. The voters approved the Sugar Land 4B Corporation in

1995 with the primary purpose of funding the incentives necessary to make the First Colony Mall feasible.

Both corporations have as their funding source a one-quarter of one cent sales tax levied on top of the City's 1.5 cent General Fund collection. This has resulted in \$65 million since 1993 used toward projects that include:

- *Sugar Land Regional Airport improvements*
- *Highway expansion*
- *Street construction*
- *First Colony Mall*

- *Sugar Land Town Square*
- *Utility expansion*
- *Higher education facilities (University of Houston System at Sugar Land)*
- *Parks and Recreation projects*

These projects give Sugar Land a significant advantage in the quality of life and the quality of the marketplace for businesses and their employees. The City's two economic development corporations are the tools that make those advantages possible and sustain Sugar Land as a regional economic center.

Parks and Recreation Events for the Whole Family

For more information on any of the Parks and Recreation Department programs and events listed here, call 281-275-2885 or visit the main office at 200 Matlage Way.

Girls Softball

On Saturday, Feb. 26, 2005, from 9 a.m.-12 noon, the City of Sugar Land, in conjunction with the Sugar Land Girls Softball Association, will formally unveil Phase II of the Imperial Park softball facility. The ribbon cutting and ceremonial first pitch will start the day's activities for the kids and the first day of season play. Everyone is welcome.



The Imperial Park softball complex.

Summer Day Camps and Tiny Tot Camps

Summer is just around the corner! The City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department will be offering its annual series of Summer Day Camps and Tiny Tot Camps, full of memorable educational, athletic and field trip experiences for kids.

Tiny Tot camp is for children ages 3-5 and takes place daily from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lost Creek Park. Day Camp is for children ages 6-12 and takes place either from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Day Camp) or from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (Day Camp, extended hours) at the Sugar Land Community Center.

CAMP SESSIONS:

Session 1: May 30-June 3
Session 2: June 6-10
Session 3: June 13-17
Session 4: June 20-24
Session 5: June 27-July 1
Session 6: July 5-8
(camp will not be held on July 4)

Session 7: July 11-15
Session 8: July 18-22
Session 9: July 25-29
Session 10: Aug. 1-5

RATES:

- **Tiny Tot Camp:** \$55 per session (resident), \$68.75 per session (non-resident)
- **Day Camp:** \$115 per session (resident), \$143.75 per session (non-resident)
- **Day Camp, extended hours:** \$140 per session (resident), \$175 per session (non-resident)

Seniors on the Go

Are you interested in getting to know other senior adults over 50 in the Sugar Land area? Join us for these March programs:

- **Visit Kemah** on Friday, March 18. We depart at 9:30 a.m. Come enjoy the bay breeze and shops in this quaint town on Galveston Bay. The cost, which includes bus fees, is

\$10 for residents and \$12.50 for non-residents. Reservations begin Feb. 19 at 9 a.m.

- **Head to Louisiana** with us March 8-10 for a visit to Marshall, Jefferson, Shreveport and Bossier City. A full schedule will be available in the April Sweet Notes. Scheduled so far are a river basin tour, pottery stores in Marshall, the House for all Seasons in Jefferson. We will stay in the Horseshoe Casino Hotel. A \$100 deposit is due at the time of registration. The cost for residents is \$425 single, \$400 double. Non-resident costs are \$535 single, \$500 double. Cost includes transportation, two breakfasts, lodging and all tour fees.

Have a Hopping Good Time
Sugar Land children will be hopping with excitement at

EGGStravaganza in the Park. The festivities will take place on Good Friday, March 25 from 12 noon until 3 p.m. at Eldridge Park, 2511 Eldridge Road. Activities include Easter egg hunts for children ages 12 and under, a petting zoo, a magician, hay rides and bounce houses. Admission to the event is free; there is a small charge for face painting and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The Sugar Land Lion's Club will sell refreshments.

HUNT TIMES:

(subject to change):

Children 3 and under: continuous
4 years old: 12:30 p.m.
5 years old: 1:00 p.m.
6 years old: 1:30 p.m.
7 years old: 2:00 p.m.
8-9 years old: 2:15 p.m.
10-12 years old: 2:30 p.m.

Call 281-275-2885 to volunteer to help with EGGStravaganza.

Shape up with Texas Roundup

Texas Roundup is Governor Perry's statewide fitness initiative that encourages Texans to log their physical activity over a six-week period. The annual competition will conclude with an optional 10K Run/Walk/Relay on Saturday, April 30 in Austin.

Sugar Land garnered the top award in the 50,000-100,000-population category in 2004. Will we be the Fittest City in Texas again this year? Register in February at www.texas-roundup.org and be part of the team.

Park Safety Tips

Sugar Land's many top-notch parks and recreation facilities are open year round and are designed and maintained for your enjoyment and safety. The City of Sugar Land prides itself on the high level of safety in the parks.

Our Parks and Recreation and Police departments have these safety tips that are effective in ensuring the safety for you and your family:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Only use the parks during posted park hours.
- Avoid walking alone in the parks.

- Carry a cell phone.
- Don't carry a purse or valuable items. If you must leave valuables in your car, lock them in the glove box or trunk where they are not visible from outside your vehicle.
- Secure your vehicle by rolling up windows and locking doors.
- Do not allow children to play

- unsupervised in the parks.
- Report all suspicious activity to police immediately at 281-275-2525.
- Obey all posted warnings and signs.

Follow these tips to stay safe and enjoy your parks! Call us at 281-275-2885 with any questions or concerns.

CALENDAR

	DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
FEBRUARY	21	President's Day: Regular Solid Waste Collection		
	22	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	24	Planning & Zoning Commission	7 - 10 p.m.	City Hall
	24 - 27	Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall		Town Square
	26	Imperial Park Phase II Ribbon Cutting	9 a.m. - Noon	Imperial Park
MARCH	1 • 15 • 22	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	7	*Voter Registration for May Election Ends		
	8 • 24	Planning & Zoning Commission	7 - 10 p.m.	City Hall
	8	Parks Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	8	*First Day for Applications to Vote by Mail		
	14	*Last Day Write-in Candidate Filing		
	25	Eggstravaganza	Noon - 3:00 p.m.	Eldridge Park
	25	Good Friday: City Offices Closed • Regular Solid Waste Collection		
APRIL	2	Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off	8 a.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	5 • 19 • 26	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	7	*Voter Registration for May Election Ends		
	12	Parks Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	12 • 28	Planning & Zoning Commission	7 - 10 p.m.	City Hall
	17	Concert in the Park: Bayou Roux	5 p.m.	Oyster Creek Park
	20	*First Day Early Voting in Person		
	21	Citywide Neighborhood/HOA Representative Meeting	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	21	Senior Spring Fling	4 - 7 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	21	Vermicomposting Workshop		
	23	Airport Open House: Public Invited	9 - 3 p.m.	Sugar Land Regional Airport
	24	Concert in the Park: Acoustic Show	5 p.m.	Oyster Creek Park
	27 • 5/1	The Grand Food & Wine Affair		Town Square
	29	*Last Day for Applications to Vote by Mail		
	30	*Weekend Early Voting	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	

* Call 281-275-2730 with question concerning the May election

RECREATION

			
<p>Parks and Recreation has various classes for all ages starting in January.</p> <p>Learn to dance and stretch, train your dog to be a good canine citizen and much more!</p> <p>Classes without dates listed are available month to month. Call 281-275-2857 for all details.</p>			
<p>Yoga When: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5:15-6:15 p.m. Dates: Jan. 11- Feb. 17 Where: Sugar Land Community Center Ages: 16-adult Fee: resident: \$40 twice a week per month, \$25 once a week per month non-resident: \$50 twice a week per month, \$31.25 once a week per month</p>	<p>Tai Chi When: Mondays & Wednesdays: Beginners: 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Intermediates: 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Wednesdays: Beginners: 7-8 p.m. Where: Sugar Land Community Center Ages: 14-adult Fee: resident: \$7 per morning class, \$10 per evening class non-resident: \$8.75 per morning class, \$12.50 per evening class</p>	<p>Line Dancing When: Tuesdays: Intermediate: 3-5 p.m. Wednesdays: General class all levels: 10 a.m.-12 noon Ages: Adult Fee: \$15 per month or \$4 per class When: Wed. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ages: Adult Fee: resident: \$12/month (Beg. or Adv.) non-resident: \$15/month (Beg. or Adv.) Where: Sugar Land Community Center</p>	<p>Ballet Flamenco When: Mondays: Beginner: 4:15-5:15 p.m. Intermediate: 5:20-6:40 p.m. Intermediate II: 6:45 p.m.-8:05 p.m. Where: Lost Creek Community Center Ages: Beginner: 4 yrs & older; Intermediate: 5 yrs & older; Intermediate II: 10 yrs and older Fee: resident: Beginner-\$35 per month, Intermediate & Inter. II-\$40 per month non-resident: Beginner-\$43.75 per month, Intermediate & Inter. II-\$50 per month</p>
<p>Dog Obedience When: Tuesdays: Puppy Preschool and Basic I: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Basic II: 7:30-8:30 p.m. Dates: Jan. 11-Feb. 15 Where: Sugar Land Community Center Ages: 16-adult Fee: resident: \$85 Puppy Preschool and Basic I, \$85 Basic II non-resident: \$106.25 Puppy Preschool and Basic I, \$106.25 Basic II</p>	<p>Karate When: Tuesdays: Beginner: 6-7 p.m., Advanced: 7-8 p.m. Adult: 8-9 p.m. Dates: Jan 11-Mar 29 Where: Eldridge Park Community Center Ages: Beginner: 5-12, Advanced: 5-12, Adult: 13-70 Fee: resident: \$40 per 11 week session, \$30 per uniform (required) non-resident: \$50 per 11 week session, \$30 per uniform (required)</p>	<p>Jazzercise When: Mondays: (8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:40 p.m.) Tuesdays (5:40 p.m.) Wednesdays: (8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:40 p.m.) Thursdays: (9:30 a.m., 5:40 p.m.) Fridays: (8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:40 p.m.) Saturdays: (8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.) Where: First Colony Community Center For more information: 281-437-7157, www.fortbendjazz.com</p>	<p>Fencing When: Mondays & Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Where: Sugar Land Community Center Ages: 10-adult Fee: resident: \$100 per month non-resident: \$125 per month</p>

City of Sugar Land
 P.O. Box 110
 Sugar Land, TX 77487-0010



City of Sugar Land offices
 will be closed March 25 for
 Good Friday. Regular solid
 waste collection will occur.

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